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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Egypt

DATE:

INFO. 16 October 1946

SUBJECT Abrogation of Allied
Military Privileges

DIST. 26 November 1946

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

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1. A Ministry of Finance directive advised the Customs Department that the special war time privileges for the entry of goods destined for the Allied military personnel in Egypt has been abrogated as of 30 September 1946. Abd-al-Rahman al-Biyali, Minister of Finance, ordered the collection of duty fees on such goods effective 1 October 1946. The Allied military authorities were advised of this decision.
2. Mr. R. J. Bowker, Acting British Ambassador, met Sidqi Pasha on 16 October, just before the Prime Minister was scheduled to take off for London, and submitted to him a note from the British Government in protest of the Ministry of Finance decision. The British note requested the cancellation of the order on the grounds that this action is contrary to the existing Anglo-Egyptian alliance and friendship terms.
3. Sidqi submitted the matter to the Council of Ministers on the same day, but no action was taken on the British request. It was argued at the Council meeting that the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936 provides for the free entry of goods for military personnel in war time only. It was estimated that since the war ended, L.E. 30 million could have been collected in such duty fees. The order was, however, temporarily shelved pending a final decision.

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